

Bay/Delta Region “Fishing in the City” Program receives two awards

South Bay Fishing in the City

Award of Excellence – California Park and Recreation Society

South Bay Fishing in the City began in 1995, and has just recently celebrated its 11th year of success! This community-based program teaches children and their families how to fish while integrating watershed education into the fun. The focus is on teaching skills in an effort to create repeatable fishing experiences.

SBFIC sponsors eleven events every year, and each event is run almost entirely by volunteers! In 2006, more than 1,500 inner city, school age children learned how to become responsible anglers and respect the environment.

SBFIC is a partnership between the Department of Fish & Game, The City of San Jose, Bay Area Sport Fishers, Rotary Clubs of District 5170, and Santa Clara County Parks. Local Rotary clubs sponsor each event and work with a specific elementary school as well as a high school Interact club to teach the participants how to fish both in the classroom and on site.

SBFIC provides recreational experience for the families and children participating. *It fosters human development* by working with high school youth to help instruct the younger participants. *SBFIC increases cultural unity* through the selection of schools served and use of bi-lingual translators. *SBFIC encourages the protection of natural resources* by discussing watershed pollution and teaches participants how to prevent this. The program also fosters and *strengthens community image and sense of place* by uniting the local Rotary clubs with the local schools and community.

Scottsdale Pond Restoration Project, Novato

Award of Excellence – California Park and Recreation Society

The City of Novato received an Award of Excellence in Park Planning from the California Park and Recreation Society for the Scottsdale Pond restoration and enhancement project. Larry Dito, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services said, “The award recognizes the City’s and community’s commitment to providing quality programs and facilities for the community.”

Scottsdale Pond has been utilized as a part of the Departments Fishing in the City program for the past 8 years. The FIC clinics helped draw attention to the need for improvements to the lake and the adjacent facilities. DFG provided biological support and the FIC program was highlighted in the grant proposals put forth to raise money for the project.

The Scottsdale Pond Restoration and Enhancement project included the restoration and enhancement of the ± 10-acres freshwater pond, and ± 7-acre wetland/upland habitat area. The purpose of the project was to prevent the pond from becoming extinct, preserve and enhance the surrounding wildlife habitat, and increase recreational and educational opportunities for the community.

Pond improvements included excavating designated areas of the pond and creating a habitat island; and installing an aeration system, fishing pier, gazebo, interpretive signs, path, and native plants. The total cost of the project was approximately \$1.36 million.

For information, contact Ethan Rotman at (415) 892-0460 or erotman@dfg.ca.gov